local taxes; uniform returns and remittance forms; consistent electronic filing and remittance methods; State administration of State and local sales taxes; uniform audit procedures; reasonable compensation for tax collection by remote sellers; exemption for remote sellers with less than $5 million in annual sales for the previous year; appropriate protections for consumer privacy; and such other features that a member states deem warranted to promote simplicity.

Critics of this legislation argue that it is anti-technology, and that the Internet must be protected from this threat. That is not true. The sponsors of this bill yield to no one in their support and enthusiasm for a vibrant information technology industry. But that support does not necessitate special breaks for companies doing business over the Internet.

This legislation is more appropriately characterized with one word: fairness. It promotes fair treatment for all retailers. In addition it protects States' abilities to collect the resources necessary to make the education investments that will pave the way for the next technological breakthrough—the next Internet. I hope my colleagues will join the sponsors of this bill and support this approach.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOAN FINNEY

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the first woman ever elected governor of the great State of Kansas, and my good friend, Joan Finney.

Unfortunately, Governor Finney is currently in a serious battle with liver cancer.

Governor Finney served 16 years as State treasurer before becoming the first woman elected to the State's highest office, where she served as governor from 1991 through 1994. She did not seek a second term.

A resolution adopted by the State Democratic party describes her as someone who ''gave tirelessly and selflessly to the people of Kansas, dedicating her energy, optimism, openness and faith to serving the people of Kansas.''

I had the honor and privilege to serve with Governor Finney when I was Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Kansas.

It was a true honor to serve with someone who believed so much in public service. Particularly in a country that is marked by a growing skepticism about public service in general, and some of our public servants in particular, Governor Finney was a breath of fresh air in our capitol.

She embodied bipartisanship in so many ways; often working in a bipartisan way to advance the causes for which she so deeply believed. Her service to the State of Kansas will not soon be forgotten.

The Democrats at their annual meeting in Topeka this year adopted a resolution describing Governor Finney as ''truly one of Kansas' most adored native daughters'', and she is.

I extend my best wishes to Governor Finney as she faces this difficult period in her life. She and her husband, Spencer, need our prayers, they already have mine.•

DR. ROBERT GODDARD

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the contributions of a man who helped pave the way for the American space flight program. Seventy-five years ago, on a cool morning in Auburn, MA, Dr. Goddard and his small group of students and assistants huddled around a nine-pound, awkward looking structure and began the first of many, now familiar countdowns. Seconds later the small vehicle rose forty-one feet into the air and fell to the ground amid the cheers of those below. The age of modern rocketry was begun. Today, Doctor Goddard is recognized around the world as the father of modern rocket propulsion.

Goddard's dreams began, like thousands of other young children, with stories from his childhood. He was born in 1882, in Worcester, MA, as the only child of a bookkeeper. In 1899, at age 17, young Robert dozed off in a cherry tree after having read H.G. Wells' War of the Worlds. He dreamt he had ascended to Mars in a machine driven by centrifugal force. When he awoke he devoted his life to making his dream of spaceflight a reality.

His aspiration of devising a system for propelling men away from the Earth led him to pursue an education in physics. In 1908, he earned his Bachelor's of Science degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He went on to receive his Master's in Physics from Clark University in 1910 and his doctorate in 1911. His early efforts in rocket propulsion mathematically explored various ideas including solar power, electric ion propulsion, and explosive firing from a large cannon as narrated in Jules Verne's classic 1865 novel From the Earth to the Moon. His work eventually rejected all of these ideas as for lack of efficiency or power.

In 1914, Doctor Goddard patented a system for using liquid propellant to lift rockets into the cosmos. That same year he also received a patent for a multiple stage system. Goddard devoted his life to the ideas and concepts of rocket propulsion that he first demonstrated in 1926. Forty-three years later these two patents were put into practice to propel Neil Armstrong and his fellow astronauts to their historic moon landing in 1969.

From 1920 to 1929 his work was sponsored primarily by the Smithsonian Institution. During this period, Goddard wrote four unsolicited reports in which he revealed his visions of space exploration. He foretold of manned vehicles exploring the moon and the planets, solar power, ion propulsion, and even journeys to other star systems. Goddard requested that these reports be kept confidential because these lofty concepts were completely unacceptable to the scientific community of the 1920s. In 1932, in a letter to H.G. Wells, Goddard wrote, ''[A]iming at the stars, both literally and figuratively, is a problem to occupy generations, so that no matter how much progress one makes, there is always the thrill of just beginning. . . .'' His visionary ideas were the spark that ignited the passions of hundreds of young men and women to transform his idealistic dreams into reality.

But he wasn't just a dreamer. His practical solutions led to 214 total patents. In the early 1920s, Goddard began a series of rocket tests of which the 1926 launch was the hallmark. One of the key theories proven by Goddard's experimentation was that a rocket will function in the vacuum of space. Before Goddard's meticulous tests, it was widely believed in the scientific community that rockets moved by pushing against the air. Goddard proved that rockets functioned on the reaction principle and that they would perform in a vacuum. On this foundation, the path was laid for scientists and engineers to build on Doctor Goddard's work and lead the United States to the forefront of the space race.

At his namesake, the Goddard Space Flight Center, in Greenbelt, MD, the tremendous NASA scientists and engineers recently celebrated forty years of continuing Dr. Goddard's legacy of discovery and exploration. So, on this day, we should remember the efforts of this courageous visionary and his successors as the finest example of American perseverance and ingenuity. Without Robert Goddard's enterprise, our race to the stars would have faltered. His historic launch is truly one of the great mileposts on the road to the modern space age.•

ELIAS ''SKIP'' ASHOOH

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Skip Ashooh, a dynamic and inspiring entrepreneur and the 47th recipient of the prestigous Citizen of the Year Award from the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Skip, a native of the Queen City was honored with this award where he was applauded by more than 650 enthusiastic business and community leaders who gathered together to honor this outstanding citizen. Skip was surprised to see his exuberant mother and six siblings who reunited to share in this joyous occasion.

Upon completion of his bachelors degree from Saint Anselm College in 1973, Skip pursued a career as a junior high social studies teacher in Manchester where he shared his love of American history with his students.

After many years of teaching, Skip launched a new career as a licensed